United States Department of Agriculture | Forest Service | Northeastern Area State & Private Forestry | 180 Canfield Street Morgantown, WV 26505-3101

File Code: 3411
Date: September 27, 2013

Subject: 2013 Emerald Ash Borer Detection Survey

To: Jay Slack, Director
National Conservation Training Center

The emerald ash borer (EAB) was first detected in West Virginia in 2007. To assess whether EAB was present at the National Conservation Training Center (NCTC), purple panel detection traps were deployed during the 2013 flight season (May-September; Figure 1).

I am sorry to report that multiple emerald ash borer adults were collected during this year's survey. The emerald ash borer is an invasive beetle that has been found in Pennsylvania, New York, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Maryland, North Carolina, Tennessee, Kansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Missouri, Minnesota, Virginia, Wisconsin and West Virginia. Since its accidental introduction sometime in the late 1990s, this beetle has caused millions of dollars in damage to ash trees across the Midwest, and has produced wide-ranging quarantines and regulations on movement of ash trees and firewood in the hopes of preventing further spread. The emerald ash borer impacts all North American species of ash trees, and may be spread over long distances through the transport of trees and wood products, such as nursery stock and firewood. This find was the first detection of EAB in Jefferson County.

Based on the difficulty in detecting this insect, it is likely that the beetle is already active on ash trees within the Center. During the fall of 2012, staff from our field office assisted Phil Pannill in conducting an EAB survey and an intensive ash inventory of the Center. We ask that all Center personnel continue to monitor ash trees for any evidence of EAB activity (e.g. declining ash, wood pecker activity on ash) and report any activity to the Morgantown Field Office.

I personally would also like to extend my appreciation to Phil Pannill and Casey Johnson for their valuable assistance in this survey. If you or any of your staff have any questions or comments regarding this survey, please contact Amy Hill at (304) 285-1565.

Sincerely,

ROBERT LUECKEL
Field Representative
Morgantown Field Office

cc: Phil Pannill, Forester

RMT/AKS

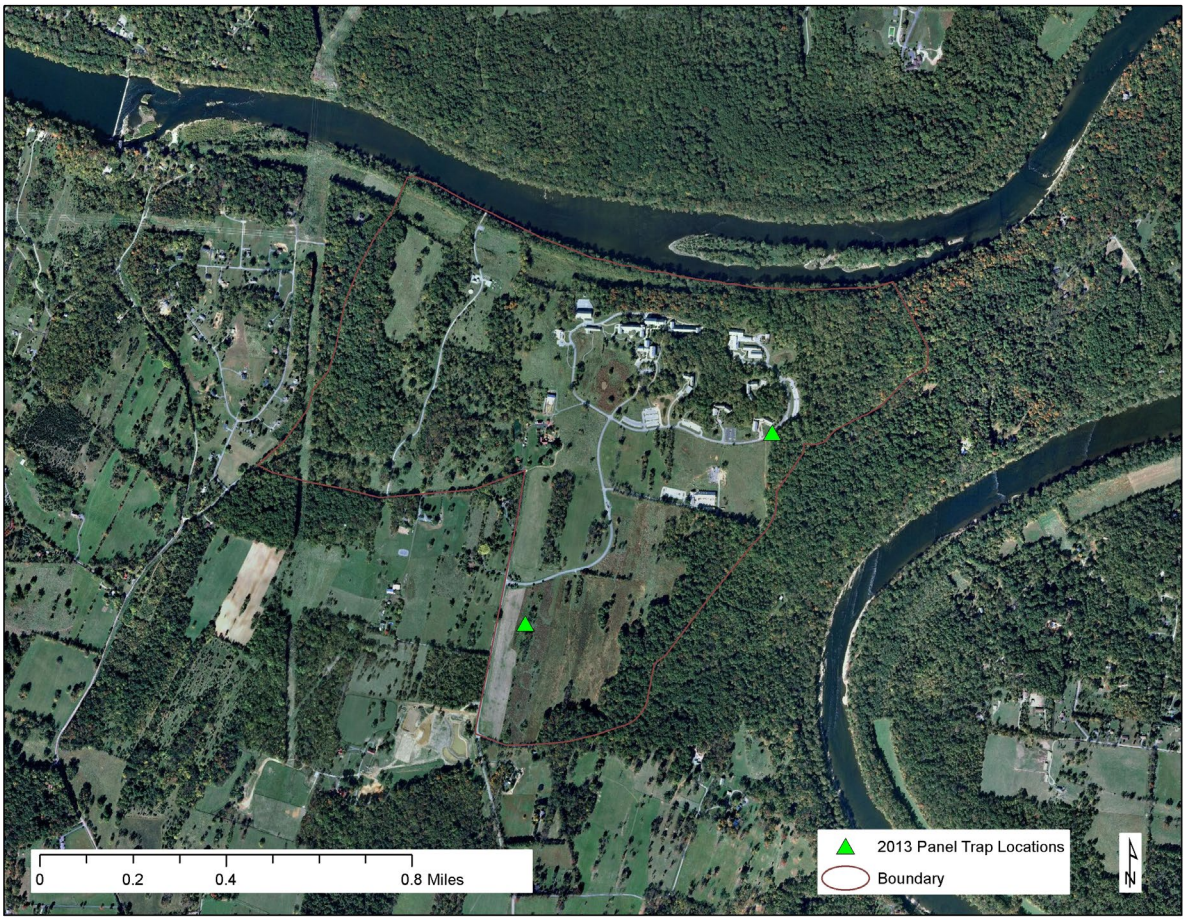

Figure 1. Locations of emerald ash borer traps within the National Conservation Training Center.